

Serial No.: 09/683,381
Attorney Docket No.: F-442

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 1 -17 were currently pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 16. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. A Notice of Appeal is filed concurrently herewith. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. section 112

In section 3 the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph as allegedly failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 16 without modifying the scope of claim 16 and submit that amended claim 16 complies with 35 U.S.C. section 112.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a)

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0136203 to Yoon ("Yoon '203") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072469 to Alden ("Alden '469").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer and solely to place the application in condition for allowance or better condition for appeal.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine the cited references as suggested by the Examiner. For example, the cited references do not even appreciate the problem of notifying remote users of a quarantine condition. Yoon '203 describes a local detector providing only local hazard indications and in no way describes or suggests a quarantine condition. Furthermore, Alden '469 does appreciate a problem of detecting hazards and providing quarantine notifications to remote users.

Similarly, the cited references, even if they were to be properly combined do not teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed. For example, the cited references do not even appreciate the problem of notifying remote users of a quarantine condition and certainly do not teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed.

Furthermore, with regard to claim 14, there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in the prior art for providing quarantine notifications to multiple senders that have mail pieces that have been quarantined.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Should the rejection be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to provide additional evidence such as that under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.131 and 1.132. Applicants reserve the right to contest the effective date of the Yoon '203 reference as a copy of the priority provisional application was not provided.

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Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-17 is patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

AUTHORIZATION

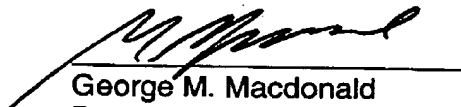
No fee, is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-442.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-442.

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Respectfully submitted,



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